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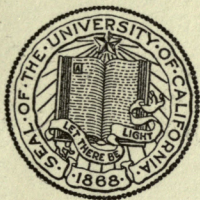


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WHITE-CRESTED TOURACOU
(*Turacus corythais*)

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GROUND HORNBILL
(*Bucorax abyssinicus*)

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BLACK HORNBILL
(*Sphagolobus atratus*)

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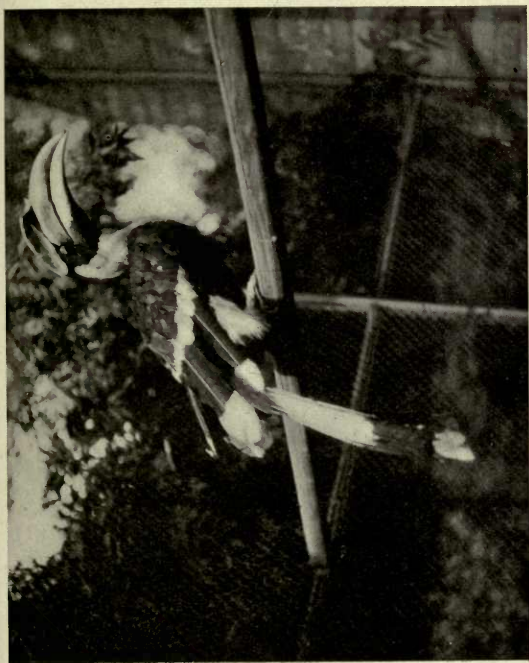
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(*Rhytidoceros plicatus*)

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SUBCYLINDRICAL HORNBILL
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CONCAVE HORNBILL
(*Dichoceros bicornis*)



ELATE HORNBILL
(*Ceratogymna elata*)

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LAUGHING KINGFISHER
(*Dacelo gigantea*)

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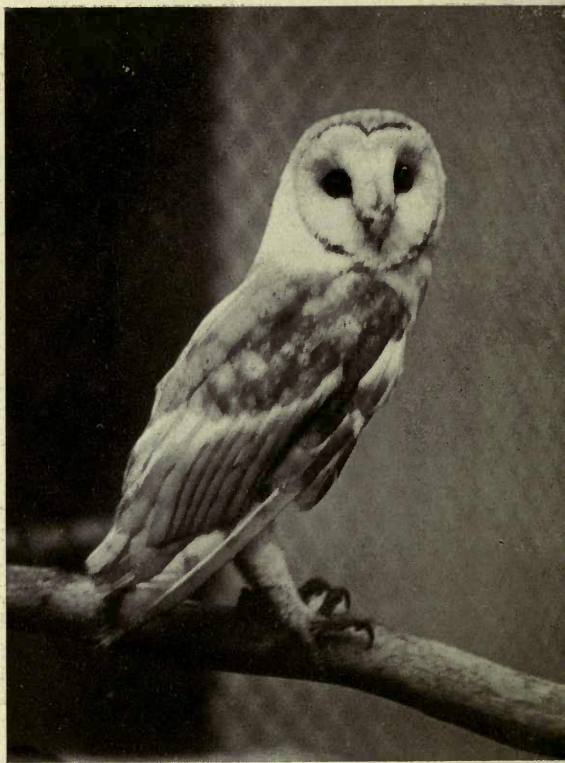
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ROSE-CRESTED COCKATOO
(*Cacatua moluccensis*)

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BRITISH BARN OWL
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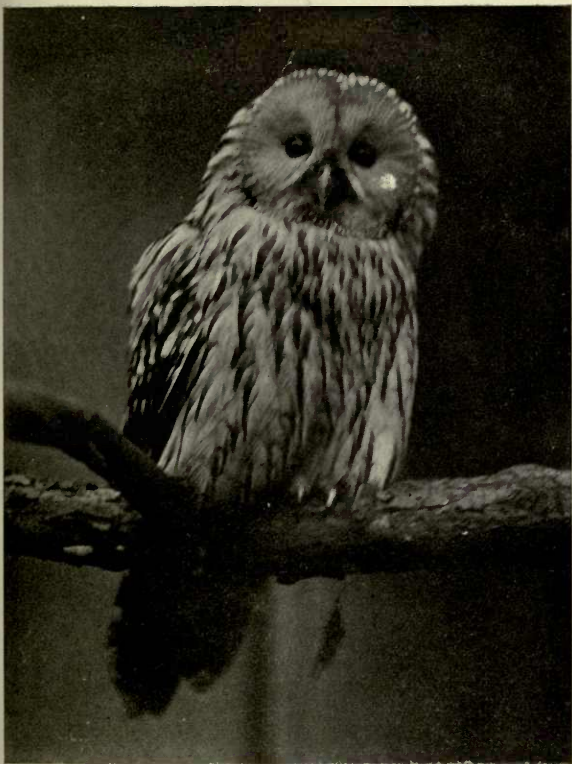
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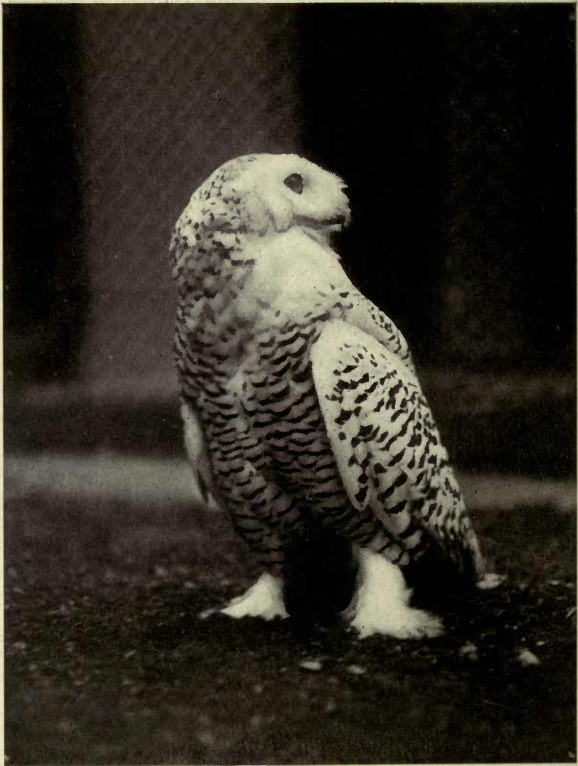
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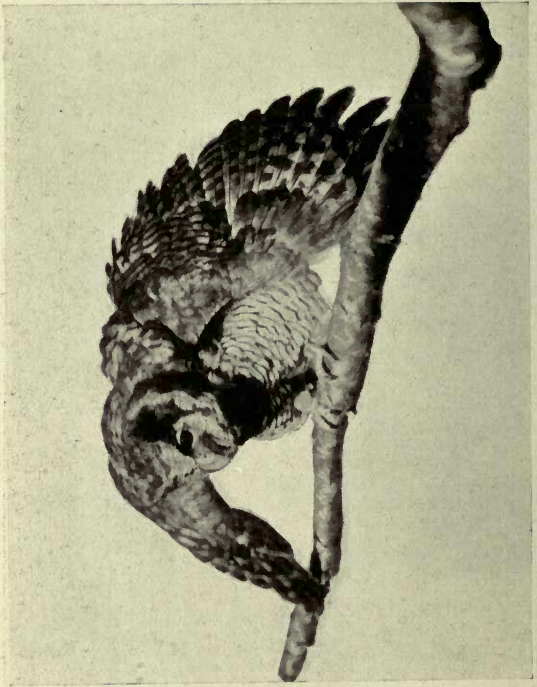
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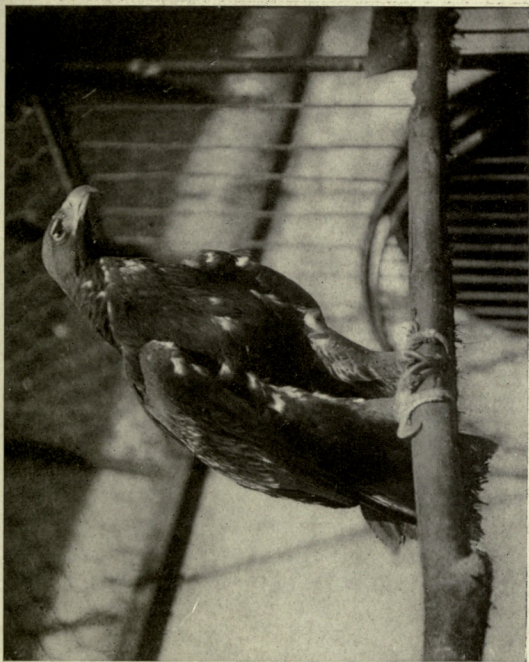
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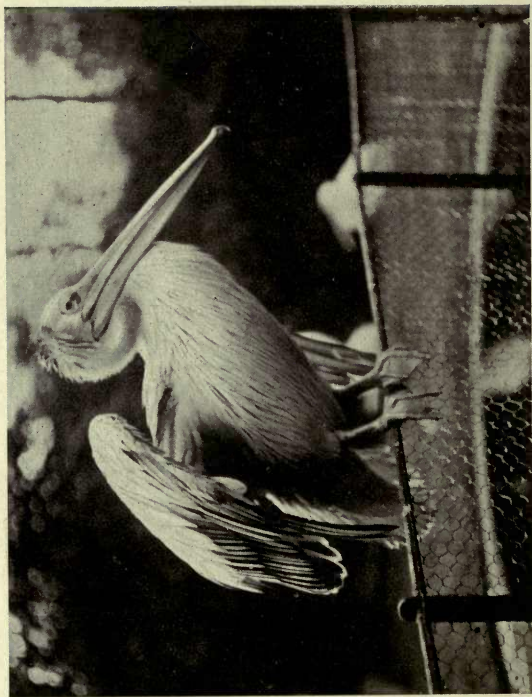
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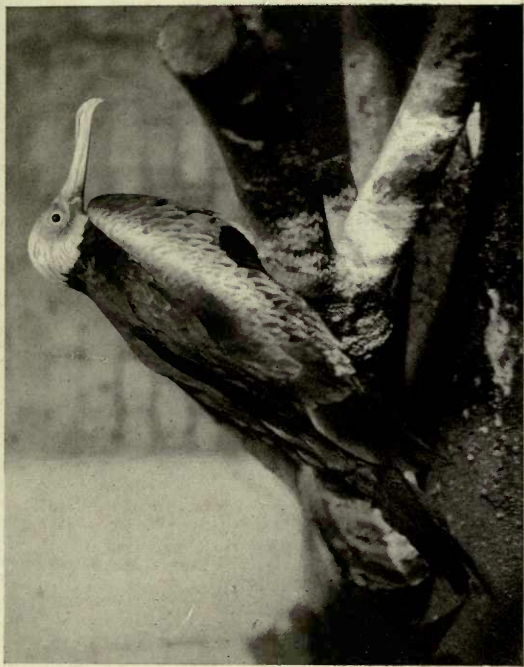
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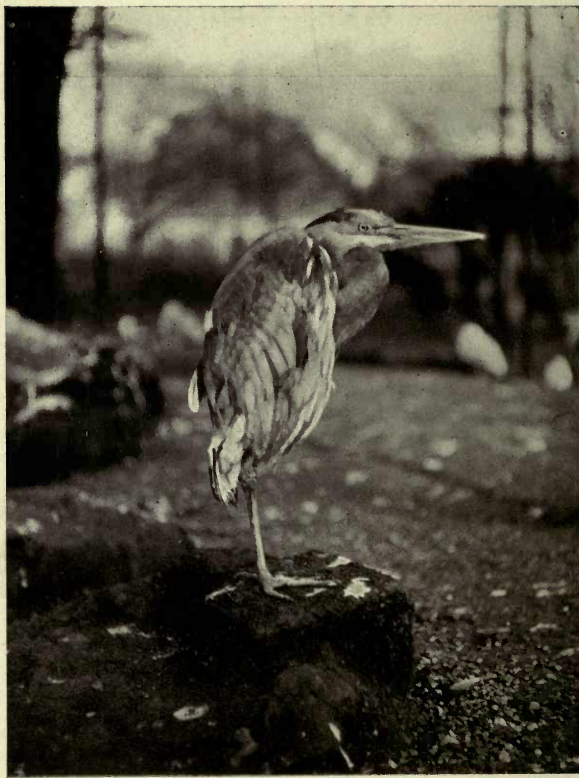
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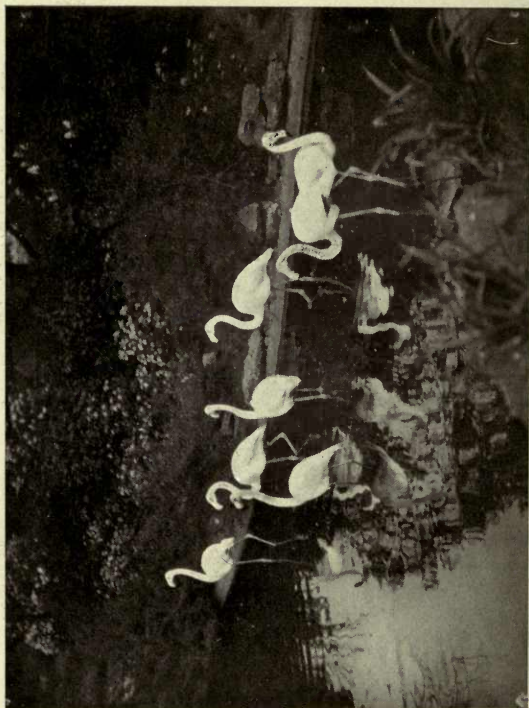
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(*Plegadis falcinellus*)



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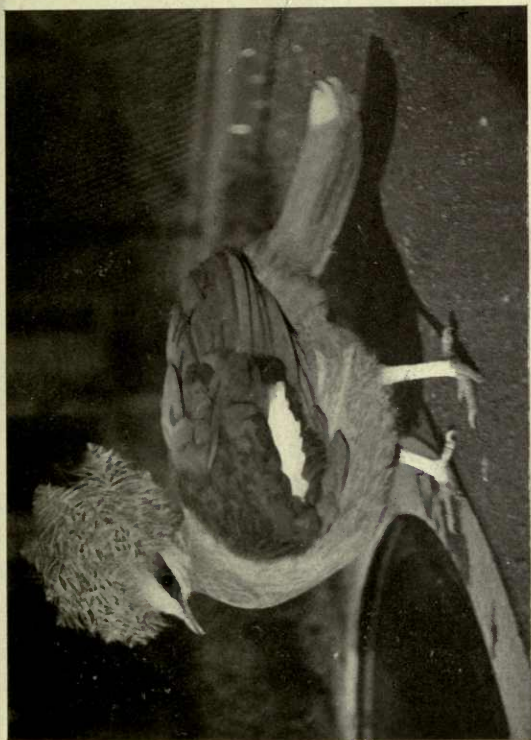
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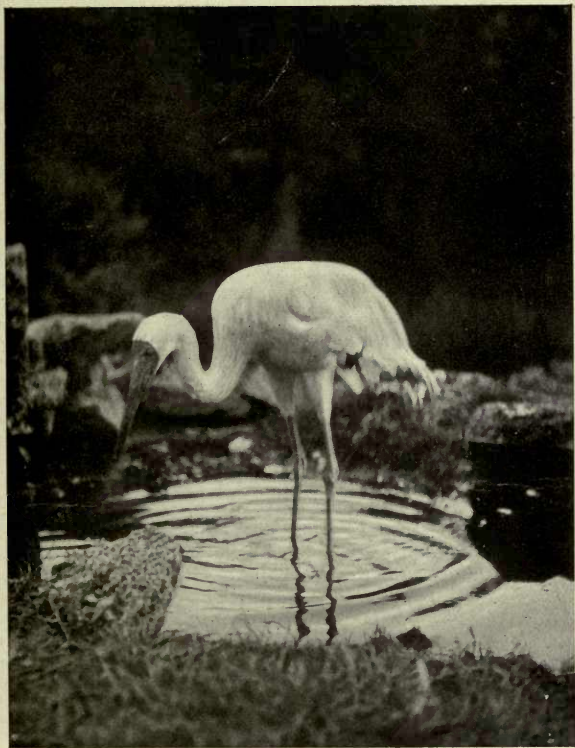
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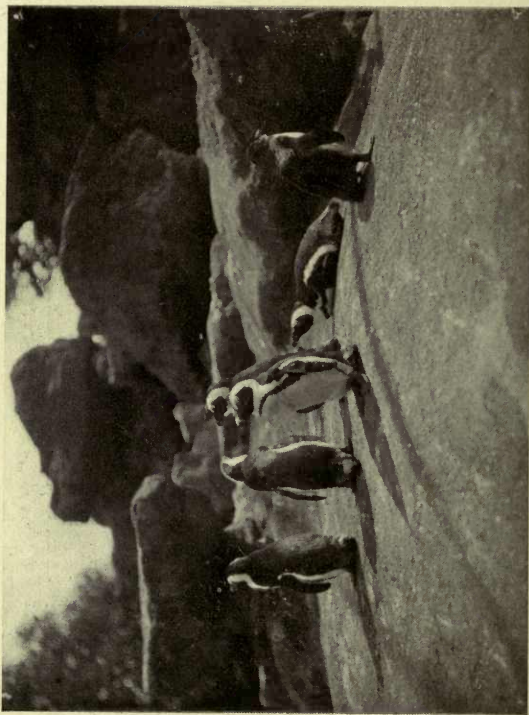
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YOUNG RHEA, TWO HOURS OLD,
AND EGG FROM WHICH IT EMERGED

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Some Notes on the Birds

OF WHICH

PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAR IN
THE FOREGOING PAGES . .

BY

W. S. BERRIDGE, F.Z.S.

TOURACOUS.

Thick-Billed Touracou (*Turacus macrorhynchus*), Frontispiece, and the White-Crested Touracou (*Turacus corythaix*), Page 6.—The Touracous, in size about that of the common pigeon, are remarkable for their beauty of colouring. The primary feathers being bright red are shown in great relief against the general green colour of the bird. The white-crested variety, a native of Dassen Island (S. Africa), is distinguished by the tip of its crest being edged with white. The thick-billed, or great-billed Touracou, is frequently called by the name of Frazer's Touracou, and hails from West Africa.

HORNBILLS.

These curious-looking birds, of which there are about 60 species, are all remarkable for the enormous size of their beaks. Of their breeding habits much has been written, and the manner in which the entrance to their nest is plastered up with mud, leaving only sufficient room for the protrusion of the hen's beak for feeding purposes, is well known.

Ground Hornbill (*Eucorax abyssinicus*), Page 7.—The Abyssinian Ground Hornbill is a bird of considerable size, being some 3½ ft. in length. It eats almost anything, devouring numbers of beetles, mice, and small birds, as well as snakes, whilst in captivity it will readily take to fruit and vegetables.

Black Hornbill (*Sphagolobus atratus*), Page 8.—This is a native of West Africa, and as its name denotes, is of a black colour. It is considerably smaller than the ground hornbill.

Plicated Hornbill (*Rhytidoceros plicatus*), Page 9.—Often called by the name of Reef-billed Hornbill, owing to the ridge-like excrescences on its beak. It hails from the Malay States.

Subcylindrical Hornbill (*Bucanistes subcylindricus*), Page 10.—This is a very scarce bird, and rarely seen in captivity. It is a native of W. Africa.

Concave Hornbill (*Dichoceros bicornis*), Page 11.—The Concave Hornbill is the one most frequently seen in aviaries. The eyes of the female differ from those of the male, in being of a lighter colouring.

Elate Hornbill (*Ceratogymna elata*), Page 12.—This bird is a native of the Gold Coast (Africa), where it is by no means plentiful.

Laughing Kingfisher (*Dacelo gigantea*), Page 13.—The Laughing Kingfisher, or Laughing Jackass, is also known as the "Settler's Clock." Its cry is most remarkable, being an exact imitation of a hearty laugh, and when one bird starts, any others in the vicinity are sure to join in. It feeds upon insects, reptiles, and small mammals, and its nest is usually built in one of the gum trees for which Australia, its native country, is famed.

Cuvier's Podargus (*Podargus cuvieri*), Page 14.—The Podargus, a native of Australia, is also known as the frog-mouth, owing to the immense size of its mouth. It is nocturnal in its habits, and owing to its very deep slumber is by no means difficult to capture. The eggs found in a nest are 3 in number.

Rose-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*), Page 15.—The Cockatoos are readily distinguished from the parrots, to which they are related, by having an erectile crest of feathers upon their head;—the tongue is also quite devoid of the fringe which is found in the parrots. The Rose-crested Cockatoo, depicted in the photograph, is a native of Moluccas, and, as its name denotes, has a crest of a rose colour.

OWLS.

It is by no means a difficult matter to distinguish an Owl from any other bird, owing to its having a distinct physiognomy of its own. The eyes are always large, and placed in a forward direction; being surrounded by a radiating circle of feathers. The feet are strong and the claws sharp, which serves them to good purpose when seizing their prey. The Eared Owls are so named, from the tuft of feathers above the eyes. Owing to their soft plumage, their flight is quite noiseless. Their food consists of small mammals, such as mice, shrews, rats, etc.—the larger species attacking rabbits, hares, and game-birds. Certain species also feed on fish.

British Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*), Page 16.—The Barn Owl is one of the commonest of the group, and at the same time the most widely distributed. It is entirely nocturnal, hiding in buildings or hollow trees during the day time. The usual number of eggs to be found in a nest varies from 3 to 6.

African Barn Owl (*Strix flammea*), Page 17.—This bird varies very little from the British Barn Owl, the chief difference being in the plumage, which is of a darker colour.

Tawny Owl (*Syrnium aluco*), Page 18.—The Tawny Owl is also known as the Wood Owl, and is still fairly common in Britain. Its cry is the familiar one of "tu-whit, to-who," which can be heard early and late in the day. It lays from 3 to 4 eggs early in the year—sometimes as early as February.

Ural Owl (*Syrnium uralense*), Page 19.—The Ural Owl is one of the larger species, measuring about 27½ inches. It is a European bird, but not found in Britain. Certain individuals differ from the rest of their kind in being of a darker and more sooty colour than is usual. Of its habits little is known. It nests in the early part of April.

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*), Page 20.—The Snowy Owl is at once remarkable for its white plumage. It inhabits the Arctic regions, but frequently visits the British Islands, although never breeding there. The eggs are usually from 4 to 7 in number, but occasionally more are found.

Great Eagle Owl (*Bubo maximus*), Page 21.—This is one of the largest of the group, being 28 inches or more in length. There are a great number of species of eagle owls, the most familiar, however,

being the Great Eagle Owl. It is one of the fiercest and boldest of its kind, even attacking young fawns. When discovered during the daytime by the smaller birds, it is usually set upon and mobbed. It is found in the greater part of Europe, and occasionally seen in Britain.

Frazer's Eagle Owl (*Bubo toensis*), Page 22.—Another species of the eagle owl is Frazer's Eagle Owl, differing somewhat from the rest of its kind by the markings of its plumage. It is a native of West Africa.

Pel's Owl (*Scotopelia peli*), Page 23.—This is one of the fishing owls, all of which are distinguished by having bare legs. It comes from West Africa.

Winking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), Page 24.—A native of North Queensland, this bird derives its name from the curious habit of opening and shutting its eyes, suggestive of winking. In size it is not much larger than the barn owl.

EAGLES.

The eagles belong to the hawk tribe, and are mostly of large size, being little smaller than the largest species of vultures;—but unlike the latter (except in a very few cases), they do not feed upon carrion, but on food which they have first killed for themselves. Their noble appearance has given them the title of "the king of birds."

White-Tailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Page 25.—To the sea eagles belong the largest species of the family. The White-tailed Sea Eagle is found all over Europe, and on rare occasions seen in the British Islands, when it is more frequently than not mistaken for the golden eagle. It feeds upon both fish and water fowl, even being known to attack a salmon. The female bird is considerably larger than the male;—a fact which is well exemplified in the pair now to be seen at the Zoo.

Bateleur Eagle (*Helotarsus ecaudatus*), Page 26.—A native of Africa, this bird is at once distinguishable from other eagles by its colouring, the plumage being of a glossy black and chestnut. However, the most conspicuous colouring is on the naked skin round the eyes, and on the feet, which are deep red—although this may diminish somewhat in captivity. Its principal food consists of snakes and lizards, of which it eats a large quantity. It has a very curious habit, when flying, of looking downwards and backwards.

Martial Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus bellicosus*), Page 27.—The hawk eagles approach the sparrowhawks and goshawks in having their plumage barred and spotted; their wings are also much smaller than with the other species. They are the fiercest of their kind, and remarkably quick in their movements. The Martial Hawk Eagle is a native of South Africa.

Crowned Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus coronatus*), Page 28.—The Crowned Hawk Eagle, belonging to this group, is a smaller bird than the Martial Hawk Eagle, but for all that is quite as fierce. None of the hawk eagles feed upon carrion, but kill their prey for themselves. It hails from Africa.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetus*), Page 29.—This bird is the best known of its kind, and still breeds in the remoter parts of the British Isles. The size of the female bird is stated to be 35½ inches, whilst the male is some few inches shorter. Their nests are generally placed in the most inaccessible ledges amongst the high cliffs; although a case has been noted of one building in a tree in Scotland.

Vulturine Eagle (*Aquila verreauxi*), Page 30.—Another representative species is the Vulturine Eagle, a native of South Africa.

VULTURES.

The Vultures, with the exception of the Lammergeier, are chiefly characterized by having the head and neck bare of feathers, or at the most, with only a covering of short down. Unlike the eagles, the males are equal in size to, if not larger than, the females. Their powers of sight are remarkably keen, and their sense of smell is also well developed.

Bearded Vulture (*Gypaëtus barbatus*), Page 31, otherwise known as the Lammergeier.—This bird is remarkable in being the only vulture which has the head covered with true feathers; a fact which has caused some difference in opinion as to whether it should be classified with the true vultures or with the eagles. It is found in the mountainous parts of Southern Europe, extending to North-East Africa and parts of Asia. As a rule, there is only one egg to a nest, the same being of very small proportions in relation to the size of the bird.

Kolbe's Vulture (*Gyps kolbi*), Page 32.—This vulture is a native of South Africa, and belongs to the group of griffon vultures. It is an early breeder, and the nest is of large size, being made entirely of sticks. It is by no means unusual to find several nests in close proximity to one another.

Pondicherry Vulture (*Otogyps calvus*), Page 33.—This bird is also known as the Indian King Vulture, or Eared Vulture, owing to the curious fleshy appendages on both sides of the neck. The head and neck are of a bright red colour and entirely devoid of feathers. It has the power of blushing when excited, losing or gaining colour according to the mood of the bird. It obtains its native name of "raj-songo," or king vulture, from the authority it exercises over other birds.

Condor Vulture (*Sarcorhamphus gryphus*), Page 34.—The condor, a native of the Andes, is reputed to be the largest of all birds of prey, the span of its wings being as much as 9 ft. The eggs, which are two in number, are laid upon the bare rock, without any attempt being made to build a nest.

American King Vulture (*Cathartes papa*), Page 35.—The king vulture of South America is easily distinguished from all other vultures by the brilliant colouring of the bare parts of its neck and head, being brighter and more varied than the Indian vulture. Shades of orange, crimson and purple form a striking contrast to the black and cream plumage. It is by no means a common bird.

Black Vulture (*Cathartes atratus*), Page 36.—The American Black Vulture is the sole representative of its genus. It is small in size, being only about 24 or 25 inches in length. In its native parts it is known as the "carrion crow."

Red-backed Pelican (*Pelecanus rufescens*), Pages 37 and 38.—Pelicans, of which there are about 20 kinds, are found in the warmer parts of the world in great numbers. The long flattened beak and pouch are pronounced features in these birds. The latter is capable of being extended to a great size and able to hold a number of fish, upon which the birds feed. When flying, the neck is bent back over the body.

Greater Frigate Bird (*Fregata aquila*), Page 39.—Otherwise known as the Man-of-War Bird, or Son of the Sun.—This bird is found in the tropical seas. For powers of flight it has no equal, being capable of remaining upon the wing for the greater part of the day. It is curious in being one of the few birds which have the extremities of both mandibles hooked. A large part of its food is obtained by robbing sea-fowl of their booty, although it will catch fish, cuttle-fish, and small turtles on its own account.

Common Heron (*Ardea cinerea*), Page 40.—The herons are a large family, being represented by about 70 species; they are found in all parts of the world, except in the extreme north. Their nests are large structures, and the number of eggs laid varies from 3 to 6. It is a European bird.

Great American Egret (*Ardea egretta*), Page 41.—This bird belongs to the heron tribe. Much has lately been written upon its behalf, owing to the vast numbers which are annually slaughtered for the sake of their plumes. These are known in the commercial world as "aigrettes," and as they only appear in the breeding season, their wholesale destruction is to be deplored.

STORKS.

White Stork (*Ciconia alba*), Page 42.—This stork ranges over the whole of Europe, except the extreme north. It does not shun the habitations of man, being only too glad to make use of the nesting boxes, which in Holland and Germany are so frequently placed for them upon the house-tops. As the storks invariably return to the same nest, year after year, and add fresh material to the structure every season, these soon become of considerable proportions:

Jabiru Stork (*Mycteria americana*), Page 43.—This bird is a native of Brazil, where it is usually found in pairs. Being a rare and shy bird, little is known of its habits.

Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilus argala*), Page 44.—At once the largest and ugliest of the storks, this bird is remarkable for the large naked inflatable pouch upon the throat. In India it serves the useful purpose of a scavenger, and in some cities, notably Calcutta, receives the protection of the law. Another of the adjutants, but differing somewhat in the colouring of the plumage is the Marabou Stork, Page 45 (*Leptoptilus crumeniferus*) of Africa.

The Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Page 46.—The Glossy Ibis is a visitor to the British Islands on rare occasions, but it has a wide range, being found in Europe, Asia, North America, Australia, and at times in the northern part of Africa. The plumage is of a dark metallic colour, which in a strong light reflects a purple tinge.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Page 47.—The spoonbill obviously gets its name from the curious spoon-shaped bill which it possesses. Very many years back it used to breed in England, but now it is only the rarest of visitors. It has a wide range, being found in Europe, parts of Siberia, China, India, and North Africa. The eggs are usually 4 in number.

European Flamingoes (*Phænicopterus roseus*), Page 48.—The flamingoes are represented by nine species. Although essentially wading birds, yet they are expert swimmers. They congregate in immense flocks, often numbering some tens of thousands. When flying, their necks and legs are stretched out in a straight line. Their nests are formed of mud, in which their 2 eggs are laid.

American Swan (*Cygnus americanus*), Page 49.—The swans are birds of large size, the plumage generally being white, although the Australian black swan forms a striking exception. Their food consists of the roots and stems of water-plants as well as insects, and their nests, which are made on the ground, usually contain from 4 to 8 eggs. The photograph is of the North American Swan.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), Page 50.—Of the five species of mergansers the red-breasted is the one most frequently seen in the British Isles, the remaining species being somewhat rare visitors. Their powers of diving are very remarkable.

Crowned Pigeon (*Goura coronata*), Page 51.—The crowned pigeon, a native of New Guinea, is the largest of all pigeons. The remarkable slaty blue plumage and brilliant red eye give this bird a striking appearance. Very little is known of its habits.

CRANES

Common Crane (*Grus communis*), Page 52.—This bird in remote times used to breed in the British Islands. It is now found in Europe and parts of Asia, as well as being a visitor to India, North Africa, and Japan. A full grown specimen is about 4 ft. in height.

White Asiatic Crane (*Anthropoides leucogeranos*), Page 53.—This bird is found in Central and Northern Asia, but during the winter months migrates to India.

Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), Page 54.—This is the smallest of the cranes, being only some 30 inches in height. It is found in Northern Africa.

Stanley Crane (*Anthropoides paradisea*), Pages 55 and 56.—The Stanley Crane of South Africa is nowhere abundant, and is invariably found in pairs.

The other species depicted are:—The Manchurian Crane (*Grus japonensis*), Page 57, and The Canadian Crane, Page 58 (*Grus canadensis*).

Sun Bittern (*Eurypyga helias*), Page 59.—The Sun Bittern is a native of S. America, and obtains its name from the habit of basking in the sun with outspread wings. Its flight has been likened to that of a butterfly. The eggs laid are two in number.

Black Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus niger*), Page 60.—The Oyster-catchers are frequently called by the name of sea pies. They derive their name from their habit of feeding upon shellfish. The picture represents the black species of South Africa.

Young Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), Page 61.—Young seagulls are always spotted, a fact which makes it difficult to distinguish one species from another when quite small. It takes three years for them to obtain their adult plumage. The number of eggs laid in a nest rarely exceeds three.

Black-footed Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*), Page 62.—The Cape or Black-footed Penguin is a well-known bird at the London Zoo, where its wonderful feats of diving and under water swimming are daily exhibited. The wings, which are transformed into paddles, enable them to swim about with great rapidity, but on land their movements are decidedly comical and ungainly.

Somali Ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*), Page 63.—The Ostriches are the largest of all living birds. Their nesting habits are very curious, for the hen birds all lay in a common nest, which is simply a large hollow excavated in the sand. The cock bird undertakes the task of sitting, except during the daytime, when the eggs are left to themselves, exposed to the influence of the hot sun, being only covered with a thin layer of sand.

Rhea (*Rhea americana*), Page 64.—This bird is often called in America by the name of Ostrich, although it is very inferior in size to the true ostrich, to the habits of which theirs are somewhat similar. It will readily take to water, and is even able to swim. In captivity it frequently breeds.

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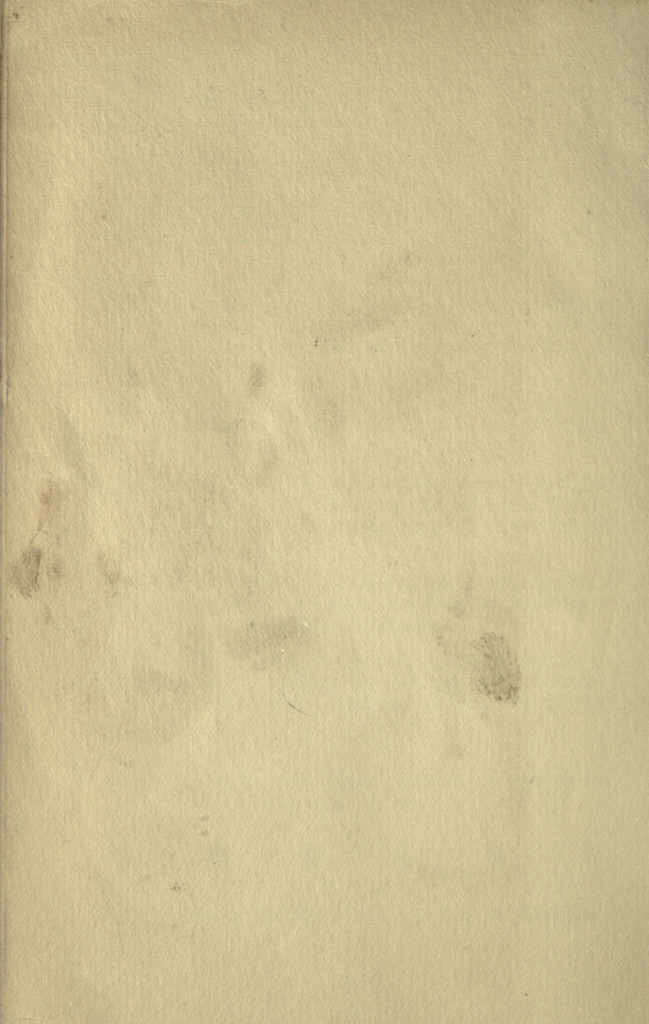
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